

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1.-80. (canceled)

81. (new) A lighting system for illuminating hollow elements such as signs, inscriptions, letters, and relief letters, comprising:

- printed circuit boards each provided with LEDs;
- cables for connecting the printed circuit boards to one another and/or for connecting the printed circuit boards to a voltage source;
- attachment elements for attaching the printed circuit boards to a desired location; and
- wherein the printed circuit boards comprise at least one printed circuit board having three LEDs arranged along a first straight line, wherein a spacing between two neighboring LEDs of the three LEDs along the first straight line is approximately 14 to 20 mm, respectively.

82. (new) The lighting system according to claim 81, wherein the at least one printed circuit board having three LEDs is approximately 50 mm to 60 mm long, approximately 8 mm to 16 mm wide, and approximately 1 mm to 3 mm thick.

83. (new) The lighting system according to claim 81, wherein the printed circuit boards comprise at least one printed circuit board having six LEDs arranged along a second straight line, wherein a spacing between two neighboring LEDs of the six LEDs along the second straight line is approximately 14 to 20 mm, respectively.

84. (new) The lighting system according to claim 83, wherein the at least one printed circuit board having six LEDs is approximately 90 mm to 120 mm long, approximately 8 mm to 16 mm wide, and approximately 1 mm to 3 mm thick.

85. (new) The lighting system according to claim 81, wherein the printed circuit boards comprises at least one printed circuit board having nine LEDs arranged alternately along two third straight lines in a zigzag shape, wherein a spacing between the two third straight lines is approximately 25 to 35 mm and wherein a spacing between two neighboring LEDs of the nine LEDs arranged together on one of the two third straight lines is approximately 30 to 40 mm, respectively.

86. (new) The lighting system according to claim 85, wherein the at least one

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printed circuit board having nine LEDs is approximately 140 mm to 160 mm long, approximately 32 mm to 42 mm wide, and approximately 1 mm to 3 mm thick.

87. (new) The lighting system according to claim 81, wherein the LEDs are chip-on-board LEDs.

88. (new) The lighting system according to claim 81, wherein the printed circuit boards each have at least two connecting points, each with a positive lead and a negative lead for current, wherein the cables are connected by a standardized plug to the connecting points, wherein wiring of the LEDs on each one of the printed circuit boards is such that, when one of the LEDs fails, current supply to the printed circuit boards connected in series downstream is not affected.

89. (new) The lighting system according to claim 88, wherein the connecting points and the plugs are embodied such that the plug connected to the connecting point protects the positive and negative leads against moisture.

90. (new) The lighting system according to claim 81, for lighting a translucent surface, wherein the LEDs are arranged on one flat side of the printed circuit boards, respectively, wherein the surface of the flat side fitted with the LEDs is significantly smaller than the surface to be illuminated.

91. (new) The lighting system according to claim 81, comprising at least one transformer for transforming a mains voltage to an operating voltage of the LEDs.

92. (new) The lighting system according to claim 81, wherein the LEDs have an irradiation angle of more than 150°, preferably 175° to 180°.

93. (new) The lighting system according to claim 81, wherein the printed circuit boards comprise at least one protective resistor configured to protect the LEDs.

94. (new) The lighting system according to claim 81, wherein the attachment elements each have a flat side and a self-adhesive film provided on the flat side.

95. (new) The lighting system according to claim 81, wherein the attachment elements have at least one bearing surface for receiving one of the printed circuit boards and a mounting element which latches to the printed circuit board and presses the printed circuit board against the bearing surface.

96. (new) A printed circuit board having three LEDs arranged along a straight

line, wherein a spacing between two neighboring LEDs of the three LEDs along the straight line is approximately 14 to 20 mm, respectively.

97. (new) The printed circuit board according to claim 96, being approximately 50 mm to 60 mm long, approximately 8 mm to 16 mm wide, and approximately 1 mm to 3 mm thick.

98. (new) The printed circuit board according to claim 96, wherein the LEDs are chip-on-board LEDs.

99. (new) The printed circuit board according to claim 96, wherein the LEDs have an irradiation angle of more than 150°, preferably 175° to 180°.

100. (new) The printed circuit board according to claim 96, comprising at least one protective resistor configured to protect the LEDs.

101. (new) A printed circuit boards having six LEDs arranged along a straight line, wherein a spacing between two neighboring LEDs of the six LEDs along the straight line is approximately 14 to 20 mm, respectively.

102. (new) The printed circuit board according to claim 101, being approximately 90 mm to 120 mm long, approximately 8 mm to 16 mm wide, and approximately 1 mm to 3 mm thick.

103. (new) The printed circuit board according to claim 101, wherein the LEDs are chip-on-board LEDs.

104. (new) The printed circuit board according to claim 101, wherein the LEDs have an irradiation angle of more than 150°, preferably 175° to 180°.

105. (new) The printed circuit board according to claim 101, comprising at least one protective resistor configured to protect the LEDs.

106. (new) A printed circuit board having nine LEDs arranged alternatingly along two third straight lines in a zigzag shape, wherein a spacing between the two straight lines is approximately 25 to 35 mm and wherein a spacing between two neighboring LEDs of the nine LEDs arranged together on one of the two straight lines is approximately 30 to 40 mm, respectively.

107. (new) The printed circuit board according to claim 106, being approximately 140 mm to 160 mm long, approximately 32 mm to 42 mm wide, and approximately 1 mm

to 3 mm thick.

108. (new) The printed circuit board according to claim 106, wherein the LEDs are chip-on-board LEDs.

109. (new) The printed circuit board according to claim 106, wherein the LEDs have an irradiation angle of more than 150°, preferably 175° to 180°.

110. (new) The printed circuit board according to claim 106, comprising at least one protective resistor configured to protect the LEDs.